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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: A Roster of Viet Cong Infrastructure

1. In order to make the attack on the Viet Cong infrastructure more effective, the PHOENIX program was initiated in 1967. The object of this program is to identify and root out members of the Communist infrastructure. It is, of course, extremely difficult to identify Communist political cadre since by their very nature they operate either clandestinely or only in areas under Communist control.

2. We estimate that at present there are some 80,000-90,000 people in the Communist infrastructure. As their identity becomes known, rosters of these cadre are made by PHOENIX officers in the field. To date over 12,000 members of the Viet Cong infrastructure have been either killed or captured as a result of the PHOENIX program. Most of these people, however, were low-level and can be readily replaced.

3. In overall terms, a beginning has been made in destroying the Communist infrastructure. Much, however, remains to be done. Up to the present, enemy cadre at the province level and higher have escaped the PHOENIX program virtually untouched.

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